conspicuous feature. Its effect is not unlike that seen in young autumnal males of *Dendroica virens*, which have the black of the throat and jugulum more or less similarly overlaid with yellow.

In briefer terms, this interesting bird may be said to be about intermediate in color and markings between typical *pinus*, with its short, narrow eye-stripe and uniformly yellow underparts, and the so-called *H. lawrencei*, which has a broad, black patch extending from the bill through and behind the eye, and the chin, throat, and forepart of the breast solidly black. It forms an important link in the chain of evidence supporting my theory* that *H. pinus* and *H. chrysoptera* frequently interbreed, and that their offspring perpetuate a variously-characterized hybrid stock by breeding back into one or the other parent strains. That this is the only possible way of accounting for the now almost complete series of intermediate specimens connecting the obviously distinct species *H. pinus* and *H. chrysoptera* is to my mind certain, despite the able argument to the contrary lately published† by Mr. Ridgway.

Mr. Thurber tells me that the specimen just described, was shot about May 15, 1884, two miles from Morristown, and exactly four and one-half miles from the place where the type of *lawrencei* was obtained. The sex was not determined, but it is undoubtedly a male. The collector, Mr. Frank Blanchet, has also taken another hybrid of the '*H. leucobronchialis*' type in the same locality [as above recorded by Mr. Thurber].—William Brewster, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Kirtland's Warbler on St. Helena Island, South Carolina.—Mr. W. W. Worthington, of Shelter Island, New York, has shown me a skin of this Warbler which he has secured for his private collection. The specimen is a male in full plumage and was shot by a native lad on the 27th of April. I had suspected the existence of the species here before, but was unable to secure any specimen. On May 3, while returning to camp without my gun, I observed three specimens near the middle of the Island. They were quite familiar, allowing me to approach cautiously within less than a rod, and seemed to be at home—not tired, and yet anxious to be off, as passing migrants usually are. The notes are of two distinct characters. The first, a song, was uttered with the head held forward and the body quite erect. It bore a striking resemblance to the song of the Yellow-throated Warbler. The second was a loud chipping, uttered while moving about among the bushes, and was kept up for a space of one or two minutes at a time. Resting a few seconds the bird would begin again, creeping about the branches and 'swapping ends' with a quick, jerking movement all the time. Arriving near the top of the bush or the end of the branch he would settle himself and sing two or three times before fluttering to the next bush. All these specimens were in low bushes and seemed to prefer them to trees. For though there were

* Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, Vol. VI, 1881, pp. 218-225.

† Auk, Vol. II, 1885, pp. 359-363.

plenty of them about, and some very tall ones, I saw none of them ascend to a greater height than ten feet. Neither did I see any of them alight on the ground. The time was shortly after sunrise. A subsequent visit to the same locality at mid-day was unsuccessful.—WALTER HOXIE, *Frogmore P. O., St. Helena Id., S. C.*

Connecticut Warbler—A Correction.—In the 'Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club' for July, 1882 (Vol. VII, p. 190), I recorded the capture of a Connecticut Warbler at Ebeme Lake, Maine, in August, 1879, which made the second record for the species in the State.

To make certain of its identity I sent the skin to Dr. T. M. Brewer, who wrote me (Oct. 26, 1879) that as well as he could make out the specimen was the Connecticut Warbler, but that he would get some one more *au fait* in plumage than he was to confirm or reverse his opinion.

Following this he returned the skin and wrote (Oct. 30): "I have shown the inclosed to Mr. Allen and have his confirmation of my own impressions. The *agilis* is rather an interesting specimen."

Lately the question of its correct identity was again raised, and to make assurance doubly sure I sent the skin to Mr. William Brewster for examination, giving its history. Mr. Brewster wrote me (March 28, 1886): "The case is of such importance, I have compared it carefully with large series of both *Oporornis agilis* and *G. philadelphia*. There can not be the slightest doubt as to its identity. It is a *perfectly typical Geothlypis philadelphia* in autumnal plumage." From Mr. Brewster's careful examination he is undoubtedly correct, and I would correct the record already made.—HARRY MERRILL, *Bangor, Me.*

'Aptoso-Chromatism.'—In the 'Ornithologist and Oölogist' for April, 1886 (Vol. XI, p. 49), Mr. Walter Hoxie has an article under the title 'Aptoso-Chromatism'—a term intended to designate the "'moultless color change' in the feathers of birds." Mr. Hoxie suggests that aptoso-chromatism is induced by the activity of the sexual organs, and claims its occurrence in both sexes, and cites in proof the changes in color noted in the Cardinal at the beginning of the breeding season. He finds that "the Black-bellied Plover, Red-breasted Snipe, Sanderling and Turnstone show a tolerably even ratio between perfect plumage and the development of the sexual organs, independent of the stage of moult." The argument is not very clearly stated, and the illustrations given relate in part to birds which undergo a change of color through a spring moult as well as independently of it. It is well known that many birds, particularly males, undergo a color change, more or less extensive and well-marked, as the mating season approaches, either in consequence of a partial moult, or without an actual renewal of the plumage. This coincidence of the change of color with the period of activity of the sexual organs seems to be looked upon by Mr. Hoxie as a relation of cause and effect, the former being due to the latter. While this may be true, certain facts may be recalled which tend to show that both are simply an expression or in-